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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES

Report of the Chairman

1. At its 1387th meeting, on 9 August 1991, the Special Committee adopted a resolution concerning the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. 1/ The operative paragraphs of the resolution read as follows:

"The Special Committee,

"...

"1. Stresses the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to colonial Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

"2. Calls upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

"3. Continues to call upon those administering Powers that are not participating in the work of the Special Committee to reconsider their decisions and to take an active part in the work of the Committee;

"4. Requests its Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate."

2. An account of the consultations held by the Chairman in accordance with paragraph 4 of the resolution is set out below.

3. Pursuant to the mandate entrusted to him by the Special Committee and in accordance with established practice, the Chairman held extensive consultations with representatives of the administering Powers on the question of sending visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Chairman appealed to the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the United Nations by permitting the access of visiting missions to the Territories under their administration as a means of securing first hand information on those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of those Territories relating to their future status. It was the understanding of the Committee, from the exchange of views that took place at the regional seminar in Grenada, 2/ that some territorial Governments had expressed their willingness to receive United Nations visiting missions.

4. The Chairman took that opportunity to express his appreciation to the administering Powers concerned for their cooperation in facilitating the participation of a number of representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Grenada Seminar. Their participation was an asset to the Seminar and the information they provided to the Committee would be useful in the Committee's future consideration of those Territories.

5. The Chairman also apprised the administering Powers of the progress achieved in the reforms that the Committee had initiated to improve its efficiency and method of work in the fulfilment of its mandate and called on the administering Powers to cooperate in the Committee's efforts.

6. The Chairman noted with satisfaction that a number of administering Powers had reiterated their willingness to continue to provide all relevant information on the Territories under their respective administration, to participate in the work of the Committee and to receive visiting missions in the Territories under their administration, as appropriate, and on the basis of consultations to be held subsequently.

7. In this connection, the Chairman was informed by one of the administering Powers that the possibility of a further visiting mission to the Territory under its administration was currently under review by the leaders of the Territory.

8. The representative of another administering Power stated that, with regard to visiting missions, her Government had always had an open mind as long as the established procedure and practice were followed; that all envisaged visiting missions should be studied on a case-by-case basis to determine their objectives and to assess whether they would be productive and beneficial. Her Government could re-evaluate its current policy regarding its participation in the work of the Committee and on the question of visiting missions if the reforms initiated by the Committee prove to be constructive and lead to positive results. It was the hope of her Government that those reforms would be reflected in the Committee's recommendations to the General

Assembly, which could have a positive impact on the re-evaluation of her Government's current policy. The dispatch of visiting missions must be preceded by the establishment of a productive relationship between the Committee and the administering Power.

9. Further to the Chairman's consultations, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations addressed a letter to the Chairman on 16 July 1992, which stated the following:

> "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland takes seriously its obligations to its Dependent Territories under Chapter XI of the Charter. Under Article 73 e it regularly submits information on conditions in the Dependent Territories to the Fourth Committee. Our position on the Special Committee is well known. We therefore see no case for visiting missions by the Special Committee to our Dependent Territories."

10. The Chairman will keep the Special Committee apprised of any further developments in his consultations with the administering Powers concerned on this question.

11. A list of the visiting missions dispatched by the Special Committee or by the General Assembly is contained in the annex to the present report.

Notes

1/ See A/46/23 (Part II), chap. III, para. 15. The complete report is to be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/46/23).

2/ Regional Seminar to review the special development needs of island Territories, held within the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, at St. George's, Grenada, from 17 to 19 June 1992 (see A/AC.109/1114).

Annex

VISITING MISSIONS DISPATCHED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
OR BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1965	Cook Islands (elections supervision)
1966	Equatorial Guinea
1967	Aden
1968	Equatorial Guinea (referendum/elections supervision)
1971	Papua New Guinea (jointly with the Trusteeship Council)
1972	Niue Papua New Guinea (elections observation - jointly with the Trusteeship Council)
1974	Niue (referendum observation) Cocos (Keeling) Islands Gilbert and Ellice Islands (referendum observation)
1975	Cape Verde Montserrat Spanish Sahara
1976	British Virgin Islands Tokelau
1977	French Somaliland (referendum/elections observation) Cayman Islands United States Virgin Islands
1979	Guam New Hebrides
1980	Turks and Caicos Islands (April) Cocos (Keeling) Islands Turks and Caicos Islands (October/November) (elections observation)
1981	Tokelau American Samoa
1982	Montserrat
1984	Cocos (Keeling) Islands (act of self-determination) Anguilla
1986	Tokelau
1989	Namibia (elections observation)